

□ Slaughter Calls for Immediate Action by Ethics Committee on Abramoff Scandals

Also Says Any Ethics Reform Package Must "Go Beyond Lobbying";

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today issued a renewed call for the House Ethics Committee to immediately open investigations into the lobbying and influence-peddling scandals plaguing a wide range of Members of the House of Representatives.

"We need ethics investigations in the House and we need them now.□ The Ethics Committee must get to work and aggressively investigate the ethics and corruption cases engulfing the House, including all of those involving Members associated with Jack Abramoff,"; Rep. Slaughter said. **"The American people have had enough sandbagging by the Republicans.□ Kick-starting this Committee is a necessary first step to returning a high ethical standard to Congress.";**

"We can have all the reform we want, but it doesn't mean anything unless there is a body there to aggressively enforce those reforms.";

"If Republicans hadn't dismantled the Ethics Committee last year then the Congress and the nation would be in a much better place now. And had the Republicans allowed the Ethics Committee to conduct a full investigation into Tom DeLay who knows what else we may have discovered?" she added.

Rep. Slaughter also stated that any ethics reform package considered by Congress must not be content to only regulate lobbying activities.

"It has long been obvious that the influence lobbyists hold over numerous Republicans must be put to a stop," she said. **"But what we need is a comprehensive ethics package, one that goes beyond lobbying, and will make ethical conduct, and an aggressive Ethics Committee, as important to the Members of this Congress as they should have always been."**